

West Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Ford Center

Cafeteria Conference Room

21235 Alberta Avenue, L'Anse, Michigan

Minutes

WUP CAC Members Present:

Donald Britton

Marcy Cella

Floyd Dropps

Shawn Hagan

Pete Jandro

Fred "Mick" Jarvi

Lorana Jinkerson

David Johnson

Martin Johnson

George Lindquist

Rory Mattson

G. Dale McNamee

Chauncey Moran

Marvin Roberson

James Schmierer

Robert "Skip" Schulz

Dennis Stachewicz, Jr.

Warren Suchovsky

Philip Wirtanen

WUP CAC Members Absent:

Dean Hulce

Department of Natural Resources Staff Present:

Steve Scott, Fisheries, Lake Superior Basin Coordinator, Newberry

Craig Albright, Wildlife Division, Escanaba

Debbie Begalle, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management (FMFM), Marquette

Keith Cheli, Parks and Recreation, Gaylord

Mike Herman, Fisheries, Escanaba

Tim Melko, Office of Land and Facilities, Marquette

Jessica Mistak, Fisheries, Marquette

Lt. Tim Robson, Law Enforcement Division, Marquette

Penny Bacon, Executive Division, Marquette

The West Upper Peninsula (WUP) Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by **Steve Scott**. Tom Courchaine was unable to attend tonight's meeting, so Steve will be helping to facilitate tonight's meeting.

Adoption of Agenda:

George Lindquist requested adding changes in the crossbow permit under new business. **Jessica Mistak** suggested moving the by-laws to the top of old business, as most of the items listed under old business will be covered in the by-laws. **Dennis Stachewicz, Jr.** made a motion to support the changes in the agenda. **Dave Johnson** supported the motion.

Steve Scott made note of the DNR Resource Guide provided to the CAC. The three ring binder is a starting point and is not all inclusive. Please review your binder and let Tom Courchaine or Penny Bacon know if you would like additional information in the binder.

Staff Introductions:

Tim Melko, administrative area manager for the WUP, Operations Service Centers and field offices. He oversees all of the staff secretaries, account technicians, and front desk clerks.

Jessica Mistak, fisheries biologist.

Mike Herman, northern Lake Michigan management unit supervisor, Fisheries.

Lt. Tim Robson, area law supervisor for the WUP.

Debbie Begalle, district supervisor, FMFM, for the WUP.

Keith Cheli, Parks and Recreation, Design and Construction section, Gaylord. Keith is attending tonight's meeting tonight on behalf of Rich Hill.

Craig Albright, wildlife biologist for Delta and Menominee counties.

Dale McNamee asked, "Why isn't Bob Doecker on the WUP-CAC?" We have to go through Craig Albright to get to Bob Doecker. Steve Scott was unable to answer the question. Question was tabled for Tom Courchaine.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Warren **Suchovsky** made a motion to accept the minutes. **Dave Johnson** supported the motion and seconded by **Marcy Cella**. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff reports:

Mike Herman had planned to give a presentation on a management proposal for Fisheries. Due to time constraints, Mike will not be giving the presentation tonight. If the CAC would like the presentation at the next meeting, Mike would be happy to give the presentation. Fisheries plans to discontinue the splake plants in Green Bay waters **only** but will substitute the splake plants with brown trout plants. THE CAC did not indicate support or non-support. The presentation will appear on next month's agenda.

Steve Scott made note of the handout provided to the CAC on Statewide Regulations by Fisheries Division. There are two statewide regulations changes proposed: changing the line limit from two lines to three lines for open water and ice fishing on inland and Great Lakes waters, and changing the bag limit on salmon from three to five per day.

Debbie Begalle said the state's fiscal year is from October 1 to September 30. Many of the FMFM's projects follow that same cycle. They have completed 12,672 acres in timber sales, finished up field work, and writing timber sales. They have held planning meetings to formulate the state forest plan for the WUP Ecoregion. There are 35 or 36 management areas. There have been meetings at four locations; Crystal Falls, Baraga,

Marquette, Escanaba, with an additional meeting scheduled at Marquette on Thursday, September 18. At each meeting, area maps and the concepts of management are available. Comments regarding the plan can be submitted on-line by October 10. The state tactical plans are planned 2 years ahead; we are planning for fiscal year 2010. FMFM and Wildlife divisions take inventory and make proposals. The open house and compartment review schedules are in your resource book. At the compartment reviews the final plans are approved. Escanaba's compartment review is scheduled for October 1.

Dave Johnson asked if the 36 regions were just in the WUP. **Debbie Begalle** said there are approximately 36 management areas in the WUP. The EUP also has management areas. **Mr. Johnson** then asked what if your plans don't coincide with other divisions. **Debbie Begalle** said that FMFM is the lead division on the management plans but the other divisions provide input for consideration. **Warren Suchovsky** clarified that comments could be written versus submitting on-line.

Keith Cheli noted park attendance is generally down and will probably stay down. Some of the decline is due to a cold wet June, high gas prices, and the very challenging economy. Some of the parks like Fort Wilkins and the Porkies did okay. Harvest Festivals are ongoing. On the design and construction end, Van Riper and Fort Wilkins will each have a new camper cabin constructed. A barrier free trail loop at Lake of the Clouds is being constructed. On Saturday, September 27 at 1:00 p.m. central, at Wells State Park there will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the universally accessible playground. They received \$600,000 for access to recreation from the Kellogg Foundation to help fund the playground. They are designing repair work on the Lac La Belle dock. The boat access sites at Deer Lake, Farmers Dock, and Bergland are in various stages in the permit approval process. We will be using our own construction crews once the permits are approved.

Marcy Cella said there have been lots of complaints on the senior citizen price increase at Big Eric's bridge.

Phil Wirtanen asked if the Bergland project was set back. **Keith Cheli** thought the project would be completed by the middle of June 2009.

Shawn Hagan asked if the DNR was providing a place at access sites to spray down boats. **Steve Scott** replied that we are not taking an active role. We are not opposed to the process and if someone is interested they can apply for a use permit through the Parks and Recreation Division.

George Lindquist said the Deer Lake access was part of the CCI settlement, what about access sites on Lake Angeline and Ogden Lake? **Steve Scott** said there were a lot of lakes in the settlement including Goose and Harvey lakes, the settlement allows public access to these lakes but it doesn't mean there will be access sites built on all of the lakes.

Craig Albright said Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is dominating the landscape. On August 25, CWD was confirmed at a Kent County privately owned cervid facility. Within 25 hours, 558 private cervid facilities were quarantined to stop animals from being moved in or out and to allow trace investigations to be completed. The 2002 CWD

Surveillance and Response Plan has been implemented. A mandatory deer check is in place for the seven townships in the surveillance zone. In that zone, hunters can purchase an antlerless license for \$3.00; this is a 70 percent discount. Supplemental feeding and baiting has been completely banned in the Lower Peninsula. Hunting season is open for bear and grouse. The youth waterfowl hunting weekend will be September 20 and 21 for youth ages 10-15. The youth firearm weekend will be September 27 and 28 for youth ages 10-16. There is a symposium: The Science of Deer Management sponsored by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) and the DNR, scheduled for Monday, September 29 in Mount Pleasant. There will be big name speakers and some of the topics will include mandatory deer registration, CWD, deer/wolf conflicts, urban deer issues, and deer management. We have a new Wildlife Chief, Dr. Russ Mason. Dr. Mason worked for the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

George Lindquist said that mandatory deer registration would be a good opportunity for the DNR to verify their numbers. **Warren Suchovsky** suggested bringing pictures of deer with CWD and to add CWD as an agenda item. **Mick Jarvi** noted the regular goose season opened the day after the youth waterfowl weekend.

Old Business - By-laws:

Jessica Mistak thanked Warren Suchovsky and Shawn Hagan for drafting the by-laws. Any changes to the following:

Article I – Name – No comments.

Article II – Purpose – Changes were made to reference the Charter in the first sentence and other minor changes were made to reflect the Charter's Purpose statement.

Article III - Council Membership - Section 1: Composition - Added Ontonagon to the list of counties in the WUP. **Rory Mattson** said groups/organizations should make nominations instead of the DNR. **Dave Johnson** said the membership could become one-sided. **Phil Wirtanen** asked if anyone applied from Gogebic County. No one applied from Gogebic County. **Skip Schulz** said Mi-Trale represents both Ontonagon and Gogebic Counties. **Doug Welker** represents North Country Trail and other groups. Mr. Welker asked how this council is tied to the DNR. **Jessica Mistak** provided Mr. Welker with a CAC charter.

Jessica Mistak suggested using the wording from the charter "appointed by the UP Deputy Director with concurrence of the Department Director" versus appointed by the Director of the Department of Natural Resources.

Article III, Section 2: Substitutes – Discussion on substitutes included: substitutes should have a voice during the discussion phase; vote by proxy, email, or by absentee ballot; no substitutes gives the member incentive to show-up; the substitute should be a non-MDNR employee; your substitute should know your opinion and how you would vote. **Dennis Stachewicz, Jr.** said the by-laws were available for a long time. The by-laws can be amended as you go or if there is a pertinent issue that needs to be addressed. **Jessica Mistak** didn't feel comfortable leaving Section 2...A Council member may send a substitute who shall have voting power...because the CAC Charter states members will be appointed by the UP Deputy Director with concurrence of the Department Director. The group agreed to discuss this section with Tom Courchaine at next month's meeting.

Article III, Section 3: Compensation – Delete second sentence.

Article III, Section 4: Terms – The first sentence was changed to include both 2 and 4 year terms.

Article IV- Officers, Section 1: Title and Number – No comments.

Article IV, Section 2: Election – The group discussed term limits and agreed with no term limits.

Article IV, Section 3: Facilitator – The group suggested there was a need to develop an internal policy for the Facilitator when serving as the Council's spokesperson.

Article IV, Section 4: Co- Facilitator – No comments.

Article IV, Section 5: Removal - Dave Johnson wanted clarification on majority, is it simple majority or super majority. **George Lindquist** suggested 2/3 majority of members present and voting. Changed to 2/3 majority of members present and voting.

Article IV, Section 6: Vacancies – No comments

Article V – Meetings, Section 1: Number – No comments.

Article V, Section 2: Special Meetings – changed eleven to 2/3 of the Council members.

Article V, Section 3: Quorum - Marvin Roberson suggested changing - for official action by consensus from majority. **Dale McNamee** disagreed; consensus would be used as an obstruction tool. **Marty Johnson** agreed he said otherwise you would kick a dead horse all night. **Rory Mattson** asked when setting policy will Tom Courchaine or the Director take into consideration if the council vote is eleven to nine or twenty to zero. No changes were made to this section.

Article V, Section 4: Policy Position - No comments.

Article V, Section 5 Emergency Resolutions - No comments.

Article V, Section 6: Official Records – **Jessica Mistak** suggested changing within three (3) business days to 14 days. **Dennis Stachewicz, Jr.** said according to the Open Meetings Act, the draft meeting summary has to be available in eight (8) days. The three (3) business days was changed to eight (8) days unless it can be changed to 14 days.

Article V, Section 7: Notice – No comments.

Article V, Section 8: Open Meetings – No comments.

Article V, Section 9: Conduct – No comments.

Article V, Section 10: Public Comment – Discussion on public comments included no public comment period, keep to the issues we are discussing; open meetings act requires a public comment period; public comment should not be limited to three minutes; no need to set aside a specific time for public comment, if someone from the public wants to ask a question or provide a comment during the regular meeting they should be allowed to do so; during specific issues and accepted by the facilitator, the public can provide written statements; we can't deal with issues like the Natural Resources Commission (NRC); public needs to have input. **Jessica Mistak** asked the CAC if they can live with Section 10 as written. The CAC agreed to leave Section 10 as written.

Doug Welker said by-laws can be changed and public comment benefits the public. He also asked that the agenda be available before the meetings.

Article VI – Removal of Council Members, Section 1: Removal – Changed majority vote to 2/3 majority.

Article VI, Section 2: Non-Attendance of Meeting. There was discussion on non-attendance of meetings and whether a council member should be removed from the council if they missed two, three, or four consecutive meetings. The Council decided it should be three consecutive meetings and added the word regular before meeting.

Article VII – Amendments: No Comments.

Marty Johnson made a motion to move and adopt the bylaws as written and amended tonight except Article III, Section 2: Substitutes. The motion was supported by **Mick Jarvi**. Motion passed.

Group e-mail address:

Jessica Mistak informed the CAC the DNR can not create an email account for a non-employee. Jessica suggested creating a free email account for the Council. **Lorana Jinkerson** volunteered to create an email account for the CAC.

Sharing the WUP CAC Contact Information with the EUP CAC:

Jessica Mistak asked the CAC if they were opposed to sharing their contact information with the EUP-CAC. The WUP-CAC approved sharing their contact information.

Jessica Mistak asked the CAC if they were ready to elect officers at their next meeting. Election of officers will be added to the October agenda. Also, Jessica asked the CAC if they needed a facilitator at the October meeting. Jessica Mistak will facilitate the October meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Escanaba. The meeting location will be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35